PA Transition to Common Core

With the release of the Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, the State Board adopted the Common Core in July 2011. Further consideration of the current PA Academic Standards and the Common Core has now redefined direction: revising PA Standards to embrace the content and rigor of Common Core. This direction offers many benefits. Continuing with the existing framework of the PA standards offers the ability to retain the integrity of the PA model. Additionally, revising Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content linked to the PA Common Core Standards will permit a redesign of the PSSA while providing reporting categories that clearly summarize the results.

The Pennsylvania transition to PA Common Core Standards is reflected in the attached timeline. The timeline essentially focuses on four objectives:

* Revise the Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content for English Language Arts and Mathematics to reflect the content and rigor of the Common Core Standards
* Revise the PA Academic Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics to embrace the content and rigor of the Common Core Standards
* Revise the PSSA tests for English Language Arts and Mathematics based upon the revised Assessment Anchor/Eligible Content
* Develop and deliver PA Common Core professional development for educators

With 2014 as the target date for revised PSSA tests in Grades 3 through 8, the pathway to the revised assessments is based upon a process that begins with Eligible Content revisions – Eligible Content essentially defined as the test blueprint. These blueprints will frame out ELA and Mathematics PSSA testing for Grades 3 through 8. With direction to employ the Keystone Exams as replacements for the Grade 11 PSSA tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics, the Keystone Exams will be carefully examined to ensure their alignment to Common Core is precise.

The training for PA educators will focus on the train the trainer model – whereby the Bureau of Teaching and Learning will develop a set of training modules to provide intermediate units with tools to do turn around training in their respective districts.

| **Common Core Transition Plan** | | | | |
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| **Date** | **Activity** | **Deliverable** | **Participants** | **Responsibility** |
| October 2011 | Aligning AA/EC to Common Core (CC) | Math and Reading AA/EC aligned to CC in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 | PA Educator Teams | Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) |
| November – December 2011 | Revising PA Academic Standards to create PA Common Core Standards | K-12 Math and Reading PA Common Core Standards  (January 2012) | PA Educator Teams | Bureau of Teaching and Learning (BTL) |
| December 2011 | Introduction of PA Common Core initiative  (SAS Institute) | SAS Institute presentation | SAS Institute Attendees | BTL |
| December 2011 | PA Common Core Information Sharing   * IU personnel | FAQ  1-pager information sheet  Podcast |  | BTL |
| December 2011 | Creation of CC train the trainer modules | PD developed training/ manuals | BTL Content Advisors (R/M) | BTL |
| January 2012 | Communicating status of PA Common Core Standards to State Board | PA Common Core Standards for ELA and Mathematics |  | Carolyn Dumaresq |
| February 2012 | Introduction of PA Common Core Standards | Posting of standards on SAS | N/A | BTL |
| February – Ongoing 2012 | SAS Alignment to PA Common Core Standards | All SAS resources aligned to revised standards and AA/EC |  | BTL/PLS |
| January 2012 | Begin CC aligned test development (reading and math) | Test items aligned to CC Standards | DRC  BAA  PA Educator Teams | BAA |
| January 2012 | Begin development of Grade 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) narrative writing prompts (Writing)  Begin development of Grade 5 & 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) CC aligned multiple choice items in Writing | Grade 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) narrative writing prompts aligned to CC  Grade 5 & 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) multiple choice items aligned to CC | DRC  BAA  PA Educator Teams | BAA |
| January 2012 | Begin selection/ development of reading passages for Grades 3- 8 (Grade 11) to align with CC | Grades 3 – 8 (Grade 11) reading passages aligned to CC | BAA  PA Educator Teams | BAA |
| February - May 2012 | CC train the trainer sessions | Six scheduled trainings across the state | BTL Content Advisors (R/M) | BTL |
| May 2012 | Secure approval of revised Anchor/Eligible Content | Approved Standards |  | Carolyn Dumaresq |
| Summer 2012 | Work on test item development | Test Items | BAA  PA Educator Teams | BAA |
| Spring 2013 | Field test items for 2014 operational test at Grades 3-8 and 11/Keystone (reading, writing, and math) | Completed field test items | N/A | BAA |
| Spring 2013 | Field test Grade 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) narrative writing prompts | Completed field test items | N/A | BAA |
| Spring 2014 | Operational Grade 3- 8 (Grade 11/Keystone PSSA (reading, writing, math) | Revised PSSA tests  Grade 3- 8 (Grade 11/Keystone) | N/A | BAA |
| Spring 2014 | Operational Keystone Exam in Composition (addition of narrative writing) to replace Grade 11 PSSA | Revised Keystone Exam | N/A | BAA |